

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2007

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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S E C R E T USNATO 2921

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MVFR: NATO TREATMENT OF OPTION III

REF: A. STATE 119269

B. USNATO 2430 DTG 011120Z MAY 75(NOTALL

C. STATE 91705 (NOTAL)

D. STATE 115906

1. MISSION APPRECIATES REF A COMMENT ONVARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS WE HAVE MADE, AS WELL AS NOTE INPARA 4, REF A THAT GUIDANCE ONOTHER ISSUES WILL FOLLOW SEPTEL. WE WOULD LIKE TO SINGLE OUT A FEW OF THESE ISSUES.

2. MISSION HAS PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED THAT, TO FACILITATE ALLIED CONSIDERATION OF OPTION III,THE U.S.SHOULD INFORM THE OTHER ALLIES WITH FORCES IN THE NGA OF THE SUBSTANCE OF OPTION III PRIOR TO ITS INTROCUCTION IN THE NAC. WE ARE THINKING IN PARTICULAR OF CANADA, BELGIM AND THE NETHERLANDS. MISSION WOULD HOPE THAT U.S.COULD GIVE THEM A LATE VERSION OF "NEXT STEPS" PAPER, AND PERHAPS EVEN INVITE ANY PRELIMNARY OBSERVATIONS THEYHAD. THIS COLD BE DONE EITHER IN WASHINGTON, IN CAPITLS OR HERE.

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3. MISSION HAS ALSO SUGGESTED, WHETHER OR NOT THE U.S.BRINGS CANADA, THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF OPTION III, THAT WE SHOULD TALK TO THEM HERE ABOUT PROCEDURE PRIOR TO INTRODUCTION OF OPTION III IN NAC.GIVEN STRONG UK DESIRE FOR DETAILED

DISCUSSION OF OPTION III IN MBFR WORKING GROUP, WE CAN EXPECT
PROCEDURE TO BE ONE OF FIRST ISSUES DISCUSSED IN NAC AND SPC.
WE CAN EXPECT UK WILL BE PREPARED TO COMMENT AT INITIAL NA
MEETING ON ANY REMARKS ON PROCEDURE WHICH ARE MADE IN THE U.S.
STATEMENT INTRODUCING OPTION III.
UK MAY ALREADY BE DISCUSSING ITS OWN VIEWS ON PROCEDURE WITH THESE
THREE COUNTRIES, AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THESE COUNTRIES BE
AWARE OF U.S. VIEWS PRIOR TO INITIAL NAC DISCUSSION.

4. MISSION HAS PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED THAT THE LENGTH OF NATO
CONSULTATIONS ON OPTION III WILL DEPEND ON ATTITUDES IN CAPITALS
AS MUCH AS ON THE CHOICE OF FORUM. UK APPARENTLY DOES NOT NOW
SHARE U.S. VIEW (PARA 4, REF C) THAT ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS
SHOULD BE BOTH EXPEDITIOUS AND FULL; UK IS EMPHASIZING
LATTER QUALITY. IF UK IS BENT ON DETAILED MILITARY-TECHNICAL ANALYSIS
,
AND BELIEVES THERE IS ABUNDANT TIME FOR ITS COMPLETION, ALLIED
CONSULTATIONS WILL BE LENGTHY, REGARDLESS OF CHOICE OF FORUM.
MISSION SUGGESTED IN REF B A DEMARCHE AT AN APPROXIMATELY HIGH
LEVEL IN LONDON ON NEED FOR CONSULTATIONS WHICH ARE BOTH
EXPEDITIOUS AND FULL.

5. MISSION HAS EXPRESSED ITS HOPE, AND WASHINGTON HAS AGREED,
THAT OPTION III SHOULD NOT REQUIRE FURTHER EXCLUSION OF
PORTUGAL FROM NATO CONSULTATIVE PROCESS (REF C). IN THIS
RESPECT, WE NOTE THUK RECOMMENDATION IN PARA 2, REF D THAT
THE ALLIES KEEP A NUMBER OF ASPECTS OF OPTION III FROM PORTUGAL
BY HAVING THE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF OPTION III IN MBFR WORKING
GROUP, WHICH PORTUGAL DOES NOT ATTEND. PORTUGAL DOES NOT ATTEND
WG MEETINGS, AND ALSO HAS NOT IN RECENT MEMORY ATTENDED ANY SPC
MEETINGS EXCLUSIVELY ON MBFR (ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW
SPC MEETINGS WITH BOTH NON-MBFR AND MBFR ITEMS ON THE AME
AGENDA, WHERE THE PORTUGUESE REP STAYED ON FOR THE MBFR ITEMS).
NEVERTHELESS PORTUGAL HAS THE RIGHT TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF EITHER
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